

Processing Immigrant Visas

Most petitions are forwarded to post by the NVC (National Visa Center).

As of August 15, 2011 the U.S. Embassy in Niamey no longer receives forms I-130 "Petitions for Alien Relative" for Americans residing in its consular district. Petitioners must file their Forms by mail with the USCIS Chicago Lockbox at one of the addresses below:

For regular mail deliveries:

USCIS

P.O. Box 804625

Chicago, IL 60680-4107

For express mail and courier deliveries:

USCIS

Attn: I-130

131 South Dearborn-3rd Floor

Chicago, IL 60603-5517

When post receives petitions via the NVC, the beneficiary is notified by mail or by phone about further processing steps. More documents will need to be gathered and medical tests made. In any of these cases, the processing time will depend very much on how quickly applicants gather their paperwork and also on the outcome of the medical examinations. In most cases immigrant visas can be processed within a month. Appointments for interviews are set on Tuesday and Thursday.

Depending on the visa category, the American citizen or LPR petitioner will fill out different petition forms:

- Family-based immigrants: Form [I-130](#) (PDF 52 KB) or [I-129F](#) (PDF 192 KB) for fiancé(es), and spouse visa
- Adopted children: Form [I-800](#) (PDF 199 KB)
- Employment based immigrants: Form I-140

For more information about how to file a form I-130 with the USCIS Chicago lockbox, please see the USCIS website at www.uscis.gov.

The current fee for filing a petition is \$420.

The current immigrant visa processing fee is \$404.

Documents to Support a Visa Application

All applicants must submit the following documents in support of their Immigrant Visa application:

1. Personal documents: Valid passports, birth certificates, marriage certificates, divorce decrees (when applicable), and police certificates for countries where the applicant has lived for more than 6 months since age 16.
2. Evidence of financial support is also required to make sure that the applicant will not become a public charge. This includes the filing of an [I-864](#) (PDF 339 KB), Affidavit of Support.
3. Medical Examinations: Prior to the issuance of an immigrant visa, every applicant, regardless of age must undergo a series of medical test. A panel physician designated by the Consular Section conducts the examination. Examination costs are borne by the applicant.

For more information on Immigrant Visas in general please, follow this link http://travel.state.gov/visa/immigrants/types/types_1326.html